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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the murder of Monsenor Gerardi in Guatemala**

The European Union presents its most profound condolences to the Church and the people of Guatemala over the brutal murder of Monsenor Juan Gerardi Conedera on 26 April 1998.

The European Union recognises the valuable work carried out by Monsenor Gerardi, who was prominent as a driving force behind the report "Guatemala, Never Again", produced by the inter-diocesan project "Recovery of the Historical Memory".

At the ceremony to mark the delivery of the report on 24 April in the Metropolitan Cathedral, Monsenor Gerardi stressed the importance of truth and social justice for national reconciliation. The European Union shares Monsenor Gerardi's vision and appeals to all Guatemalans not to allow this cowardly and foul murder to distract them from the full implementation of the peace accords.

The European Union urges the Government of Guatemala to continue to take all steps necessary to ensure a full investigation of the murder in order to bring those responsible to justice.

The European Union also calls upon the Government of Guatemala to support the work of the "Truth Commission" and to take all appropriate measures to ensure the safety of its members.